

TROWBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1950.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area	2,249 acres
Population	13,980
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1950)	£100,793
Sum represented by Penny Rate (year 1949-50)	...	...	...	...	...	£412
Total number of houses in Urban District (31-12-50)	...	...	...	...	...	4,191

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—There has been no change in the conditions of the town, and there is still a grave need for more houses.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population		...	13,980		
			M.	F.	Total
<u>Live Births</u> —Legitimate	...	114	95	209	
Illegitimate	...	4	2	6	
Total	...	118	97	215	
<u>Still Births</u> —Legitimate	...	2	4	6	
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	
Total	...	2	4	6	
<u>Deaths from all causes</u>	...	97	89	186	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :					
Legitimate	...	3	1	4	
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	
Total	...	3	1	4	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks		3	0	3	(Legitimate)
Urban District England and Wales					
Crude Live Birth rate	15.4	per 1,000 of population.	Comparison	15.8	
Corrected Birth rate	15.5				
(Comparability Factor 1.01)					
Still Birth rate	0.43	per 1,000 of population.	„	0.37	
Crude Death rate :					
All Causes	13.3	per 1,000 of population.	„	11.6	
Corrected Death rate	11.3				
(Comparability Factor .85)					
Infants under 1 year	18.6	per 1,000 live births.	„	29.8	
Infants under 4 weeks	11.5	per 1,000 live births.	„	—	

Analysis of deaths from all causes.				Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	3	2	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	4	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	11	5	16
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	1	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	15	12	27
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	14	6	20
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	3	—	3
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	11	23	34
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	6	2	8
Influenza	...	...	...	—	2	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	5	11
Bronchitis	...	...	...	8	6	14
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	2	2	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	3	—	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	5	10	15
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	—	1	1
All other Accidents	...	...	...	1	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	97	89	186

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

1. *Comparability Factors.* Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, are given and may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

2. It will be observed that the headings used in the Analysis of Deaths are different this year. The deaths are classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

I. STAFF.

1. *One part-time Medical Officer*, who acts for Trowbridge U.D., Bradford-on-Avon U.D., and Bradford and Melksham R.D., and is also an Assistant County Medical Officer. From April 1st to December 31st, Melksham U.D. was added until a new appointment could be made.
2. *Senior Sanitary Inspector*: L. B. Densham, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Cert. F.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector: Donald S. Smith, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
3. *Clerical Staff*: A typist whose time is divided between the Trowbridge Public Health Department and the other authorities for whom the Medical Officer acts.
4. *Rodent Operator*.

II. (a) *Laboratory Facilities*. The Salisbury Area Pathological Laboratory, at Salisbury Infirmary, undertakes all bacteriological and pathological examinations.

(b) *Ambulance Facilities*. The County Council's Ambulance Station for this area is at Woolley Grange, Bradford-on-Avon.

(c) *Nursing in the Home*. There are two district nurses and one midwife.

(d) *Home Helps*. The County Council Home Help service is making progress and already great assistance has been given in cases of illness and infirmity. It should be clearly understood that Home Helps are not intended, and should not be expected, to undertake any nursing—their duties are household ones only.

(e) *Treatment Centres and Clinics*. The County Council Clinic, The Halve, is used for all clinics.

The Child Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Immunisation. A session is held every fourth Thursday.

A Chest Physician attends a Tuberculosis Clinic each Wednesday and Saturday.

Specialist Clinics are held on other occasions.

(f) *Hospital Accommodation and Maternity Homes*.

1. *Trowbridge and District Hospital*. This is a general hospital with a Maternity Department of 13 beds.

2. *Trowbridge and District Isolation Hospital*. This hospital still admits cases of infectious disease, but when these cases are few, the beds are used for general medical purposes. There are also 8 Tuberculosis beds for male cases.

3. There is a private Maternity Home : it accommodates 16 persons—13 maternity cases and 3 others.

CARE OF THE AGED.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

There have been no cases taken under this Section.

The presence in the town of a County Council Welfare Home for older people has caused a complete change in the outlook of many elderly people, especially those living alone. The fear of being moved to "The Institution" is now, in many cases, changed to a desire to be admitted to the very pleasant Home called "The Prospect."

There have been established for several years, two very flourishing "Over-Sixty" Clubs. Apart from the more obvious enjoyment of their weekly meetings, an even more valuable contribution is made to the welfare of many aged people by the contact among them of the voluntary helpers and advisers, and the various welfare organisations.

The Clubs have been able to find a chiropodist who undertakes to attend members at a reduced fee—this is of almost inestimable value.

No action had to be taken by the Council under this act although the question of the care of the aged in their own homes requires the care and observation of many persons. The Home Help service administered by the County Council, with the two Health Visitors (Mrs. Fielding and Miss Slade) as immediate supervisors, is of great use in supplying sufficient help to allow a certain proportion to remain in their own homes for a longer period than would otherwise be possible.

In this context it may be interesting to point out that the Housing Manager, Mr. Byers, has safeguarded, as far as possible, those aged persons living in the Council's bungalows. Electric alarm bells have been provided for each pair of bungalows which can be operated from the living room and bedroom in each bungalow.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—There has been no change in the water supply; the amount has been always sufficient and the quality excellent.

REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Water sample received on 3/4/50 at 3 p.m. from Bythesea Lodge, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, for the Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board.

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL COUNT. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours : NIL per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. COLI COUNTS at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours :

Quantity of water tested.	Acid and gas from lactose.									
	at 37°C.					44°C.				
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculations made from above :

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C. : NIL.

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C. : NIL.

Opinion. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

Date 5/4/50.

(Signed) H. W. H. KENNARD, *Pathologist.*

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—As before.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.—Throughout the year the Consulting Engineers proceeded with the scheme for the reconstruction scheme. The works as they stand are still producing a satisfactory effluent; this is obtained by the most strenuous and continuous efforts of the staff to keep the various parts in service.

SEWERAGE.—Apart from housing estate extensions, no new works were carried out.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Measles		Acute Poliomyelitis		Whooping Cough	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0
1	3	—	1	1	—	—	7	6
3	7	2	1	1	—	—	4	7
5	11	5	—	—	—	—	6	9
10	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	23	9	2	2	—	—	20	23

Age Group	Acute Pneumonia		Erysipelas		Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	2	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	2	—	—
65	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	1	—	1	3	2	—

NOTES.—*Scarlet Fever.* For many years, cases of scarlet fever have been of a mild type, but towards the end of the year several cases occurred of a much more serious kind. Fortunately, all were able to be accommodated in the Isolation Hospital and all made good recoveries.

HOUSING.

During the year ended 31st December, 1950, work was commenced on the Council's Studley Green Estate, which it is intended will eventually consist of approximately 330 houses. Only two of these houses were completed during the year, and were occupied by two families composed of six persons.

It is anticipated that houses will shortly become available for occupation in a regular weekly sequence. There were 22 vacancies during the year and a similar number of families to a total of 76 persons were re-housed.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The following table gives details of the number of animals slaughtered at the Government controlled slaughterhouses in the town, and the number found affected with Tuberculosis, or other diseases, and the respective percentages. A large amount of time has been devoted to meat inspection during the year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED AT BACON FACTORIES AND MINISTRY OF FOOD SLAUGHTERHOUSES, TROWBRIDGE, 1950.								
				<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
				<i>excluding Cows.</i>				
Number killed	...	...	...	1,177	1,226	5,556	5,258	23,213
Number inspected	...	...	...	1,177	1,226	5,556	5,258	23,213
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS								
Whole carcasses condemned	...			8	8	47	30	44
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...			294	564	32	752	661
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...			25.66%	46.66%	1.42%	14.87%	3.04%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY								
Whole carcasses condemned	...			15	35	5	—	48
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...			168	486	9	—	862
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	...	...	...	15.55%	42.49%	.25%	—	3.92%

The percentage of all cattle inspected (including cows) affected with disease other than tuberculosis was 36.37%.

The percentage of all cattle inspected (including cows) affected with tuberculosis was 29.3%.

The total weight of Meat (including Tubercular Meat) and other Foods condemned and destroyed as unfit for human food during the year was as follows :—

		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Beef (Home killed)	...	38	13	1	5	8
Beef (Imported)	...	—	3	2	13	—
Mutton	...	1	13	1	6	—
Veal	...	1	7	2	10	—
Pork	...	18	7	3	26	12
Other Foods	...	—	11	—	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total	...	60	16	3	6	5 $\frac{3}{4}$

The number of premises registered in accordance with Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is as follows :—

1. (a) For the Sale of Ice Cream ... 38
- (b) For the Manufacture of Ice Cream ... 5
2. For the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted,
 pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale ... 9

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The number of slaughtermen whose names appear on the Register is 19.

DAIRIES AND DISTRIBUTORS OF MILK.

A Register is kept giving details of all persons carrying on the trade of distributors of milk in the district and of all premises used as dairies, not being dairy farms. There are 9 Distributors of Milk and 4 premises used as Dairies at present on the Register.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Licences have been issued to use the following Designations under the above Regulations during the year :—

(1) Dealer's Licence to use the Special Designation (Tuberculin Tested) ...	6
(2) Dealer's Licence to use the Special Designation (Pasteurised) ...	6
(3) Supplementary Licence to use the Special Designation (Tuberculin Tested)	1
(4) Supplementary Licence to use the Special Designation (Pasteurised) ...	2

FOOD BYE-LAWS.

Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air have been made by the Council and came into operation on the 11th day of December, 1950. Many improvements have been effected to premises where food is prepared and sold during the year and visits have been made with a view to ascertaining that the Bye-laws are being observed.

SHOPS, STALLS AND PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

(1) Visits to Food Premises (excluding Government Slaughterhouses and Bacon Factories)	140
(2) Visits to Bacon Factories	240
(3) Visits to Government Slaughterhouses	375

RODENT CONTROL.

The soil sewers of the town have again been treated twice during the year in accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Rodent Operator has treated the following premises for rodent infestation during the year :—

Type of Property.	No. of Properties Inspected.	No. of Inspections Made.	No. of Treatments to Properties.
Local Authority Property ...	9	53	6
Dwelling-houses	217	720	57
Business Premises	63	336	29
Agricultural Properties ...	7	21	2
Totals ...	296	1,130	94

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	15	11	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	91	55	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	3	3	—	—	3
TOTAL		109	69	—	—	

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	1	1	—	—	—	9
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	3	3	—	2	—	10
(c) not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	4	4	—	—	—	12
TOTAL		8	8	—	2	—	

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing / Making, etc. ... apparel \ Cleaning and washing	13	11	—	—	—	—	—	13
	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	14

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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